

*Bogun*

THE ANNUAL HEALTH RECORD.

The Medical Officer of Health presented his report upon the health of the town for the year 1895, and among the items of interest were the following:—"The death-rate for the last twelve months is 17·3 per 1,000, showing a slight increase on the previous year, owing, no doubt, to the epidemic of influenza and the severe weather in the early part of the year. The total number of deaths during the period under report was 77, viz.:—14 under one year, 5 between one and five years, 3 between five and fifteen years, 2 between fifteen and twenty-five years, 26 between twenty-five and sixty-five years and 27 of sixty-five years and upwards; 5 of the latter were over sixty-five and under seventy, 9 of seventy and under eighty, 12 of eighty and under ninety, and 1 of ninety-three years; from which numbers the mean duration of life is found to be 57 years. Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act of 1889, adopted by the Local Board in 1891, 14 cases of infectious diseases were registered as against 9 in the previous year, viz., 11 cases of erysipelas and 3 cases of scarlet fever. None of the scarlet fever cases ended fatally, nor was there any spread of the disease owing to the careful isolation and disinfection which was carried out. During the period under report various parts of the district have been periodically inspected, and found generally in a satisfactory condition; and where occasion has arisen the owners' or occupiers' attention has been called to the nuisance, or to anything likely to be injurious to health, with the result that prompt

steps have been taken to remedy the defects. The dairies and slaughter houses have been repeatedly and periodically visited and generally found in a wholesome and cleanly condition. During the past year the town generally has been kept in a very cleanly condition. The scavenging and watering of the streets have been systematically and thoroughly carried out. A considerable sum has been expended on surface water drainage, and it is to be hoped that this, while preventing the flooding of cellars, will not be detrimental to the general drainage of the town which, in consequence, must be more than ever periodically flushed, even if further automatic flushing tanks have to be provided. A new drain has been laid down in Norfolk-street which will doubtless prove of great advantage to the houses adjoining so narrow a thoroughfare. The new water is still good, but as the Company are doing away with sanitary services unless the householders also take a full domestic supply, it will be the Council's duty to see that the W.C.'s in the district have a proper supply for flushing.

The CHAIRMAN said they had to thank Dr. Cooke for so carefully a drawn up report which was also a satisfactory one, although the death rate was a trifle higher than some years—it was amongst the old people during the last years' severe winter. The matter of an Infectious Hospital as recommended was under consideration and it was possible that in time a solution of the question might be arrived at.

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE SURVEYOR

